

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01  
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 H-01 /033 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RBAKER:SM X20857  
APPROVED BY AF/E:RPOST  
-----040834Z 122549 /15  
R 040123Z NAY 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, KE, US

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST INQUIRY CONCERNING PROHIBITED  
IMMIGRANT STATUS OF DAVID OTTAWAY

1. WASHINGTON POST HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT IT WISHES TO GAIN READMISSION TO KENYA FOR POST'S CHIEF AFRICA CORRESPONDENT, DAVID B. OTTAWAY. OTTAWAY, RECENTLY EXPELLED FROM ETHIOPIA AND NOW IN SEARCH OF ALTERNATIVE LOCATION, HAS BEEN "PROHIBITED IMMIGRANT" IN KENYA SINCE SEPTEMBER 1974 DUE TO ARTICLE WRITTEN AT THAT TIME ABOUT BUSINESS DEALINGS OF KENYATTA FAMILY.
2. POST OFFICIALS HAVE MET WITH KENYAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON, WHO ACCORDING TO POST AGREED TO FORWARD THEIR REQUEST TO NAIROBI WITH FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION. POST HAS ASKED OUR ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING FOREIGN MINISTRY TO ENSURE THAT REQUEST HAS REACHED MINISTRY AND RECEIVES APPROPRIATE CONSIDERATION.

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3. FOLLOWING, FOR USE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY AT EMBASSY'S DISCRETION, IS WASHINGTON POST'S ARGUMENTATION IN FAVOR OF THEIR REQUEST AS CONTAINED IN LETTER TO DEPARTMENT ON THIS SUBJECT:

A. POST BELIEVES THAT MUCH WATER HAS FLOWED OVER DAM

SINCE 1974, AND WOULD LIKE TO CLOSE BOOK ON PAST PROBLEMS.

B. POST FINDS IT HARD TO BELIEVE THAT KENYA, WHICH WOULD LIKE TO MAKE NAIROBI A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER FOR UN AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, WOULD LIKE PERMANENTLY TO BAR JOURNALIST OF OTTAWA'S STATURE REPRESENTING ONE OF MAJOR AMERICAN NEWSPAPERS.

C. POST WOULD LIKE PERMISSION FOR OTTAWA TO ESTABLISH POST'S MAIN AFRICA BUREAU IN NAIROBI. POST BELIEVES IT TO BE IN INTEREST OF KENYA AS WELL AS POST THAT THERE BE REGULAR POST STAFF PRESENCE IN KENYA, IMPORTANT COUNTRY WHOSE ROLE HAS PERHAPS NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY REPORTED IN SERIES OF CRISES THAT HAVE BEEN UNSETTLING EAST AFRICA AND THE HORN.

4. POST LETTER NOTES THAT MOST RECENT DOCUMENTS IN KENYAN FILE ON SUBJECT ARE PROBABLY EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN POST EXECUTIVE EDITOR BENJAMIN C. BRADLEE (APRIL 23, 1976) AND FONMIN PERMSEC KITI (JUNE 5, 1976). BRADLEE ASKED THAT OTTAWA BE ALLOWED TO COVER UNCTAD MEETING; KITI REPLIED THAT POST COULD SEND ANY CORRESPONDENT EXCEPT OTTAWA.

5. FYI: POST LETTER ALSO STATES THAT AMB. MARSHALL IN MAY 1976 TOLD POST THAT SAUL CASE (SUBJECT OF OFFENDING OTTAWA ARTICLE) WAS "COMING TO AN END" AND THAT OTTAWA PROBLEMS MIGHT BE QUIETLY SETTLED SOON THEREAFTER.

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** CASC, PFOR, KE, US, (OTTAWAY, DAVID B)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009